

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

PROJECT NO. **1686**REPORTED BY **F. E. Broadbent**DIVISION **Soils & Plant Nut.**

CAMPUS AND DIVISION OR DEPARTMENT

DATE **January 1957**

Annual Summary Statement of Progress for year ending Dec. 31, **56**...
This Summary is in addition to, not in place of, more complete reports
of progress prepared periodically and at least once a year with a dead-
line of Feb. 1.

Title: **Summary of 1956 work on peat soils**Personnel: **F. E. Broadbent**

Principal results of year:

Experiments designed to evaluate rate of biological oxidation of organic soils
in relation to the subsidence problem have been performed. By extrapolating CO₂-
production figures obtained in 30 day experiments, maximum possible yearly loss figur-
es on the order of 12-15% were obtained. Assuming 2 ft. of peat above the water table,
this would account for 3-3 1/2 inches subsidence, which is close to observed values in
the field.

A method for evaluating extent of loss in surface horizons of peat soils based on
carbon and ash determinations of several horizons within a profile has been tried on
a few profiles. Agreement between measured and calculated carbon content in surface
horizons is good, indicating that the basic assumptions involved in the method are
valid.

Detailed information on this work is given in the annual report for project 1686

Publications:

(If more space is needed, use back of this sheet.)

D - 0 2 9 6 3 0

D-029630